



Announcement
Middle East Partnership Initiative
MEPI Student Leaders Program
Five-Week program (Start date June 29th, 2009)

Executive Summary

The Middle East Partnership initiative (MEPI) is pleased to announce the 2009 "**Student Leaders**" Program, a fully-funded five-week intensive leadership training program in the U.S. for university students. It is implemented by up to five host institutions that annually receive a multinational group of exemplary undergraduate students from the Middle East and North Africa (approximately 90 students are expected to participate). The principal objective of this Student Leaders Program is to develop the participants' leadership and collective problem-solving skills, and explore U.S. history and culture. It also includes a two-day orientation in Washington D.C., a four-week academic residency program at a U.S. university or college, and a one-week educational study tour to other regions of the U.S. Students also participate in a follow on activity, alumni conference in the Middle East/North Africa in early 2010.

The program is fully funded, including international airfare, travel within the United States, accommodation, food, and program fees. Applicants for the Student Leaders program should be current university students, aged 19 to 23, demonstrate English Language ability, are mature, responsible, independent, open-minded, tolerant, and thoughtful, and have a strong

interest in learning about the United States. Deadline for application submission is December 31st, 2009.

SUBMISSION METHOD

Interested applicants should send to the U.S. Embassy in Amman an up-to-date resume and the application form (see attached). Applications should be submitted electronically to Ruba Matarneh, Cultural Affairs Specialist/MEPI Coordinator at matarnehry@state.gov. Candidates selected for the program will be notified in January.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The MEPI Student Leaders Institutes are some of the most successful programs sponsored by MEPI's Education Pillar. Since 2003, nearly 500 future leaders have participated in this opportunity and have returned home to implement change at the local level. MEPI hopes that participants will utilize their experiences to practice leadership and promote democratic principles in their home countries, such as the rule of law, government accountability, independent media, diversity, tolerance, and a strong civil society. Selected students will have the opportunity to interact with a multinational group of undergraduate student leaders from selected countries in the Middle East and North Africa.

HOST INSTITUTIONS AND COURSE MATERIALS

Each host institution will be unique in its specific course materials and scheduling. However, all will be designed around one essential theme and two key components. The essential theme of each institute will be how leadership is conceived and practiced in different capacities (governmental, community, civil society, private sector, etc.) and in different regions of the United States. The two key components are: an academic residency, conducted at the host institution, running approximately four weeks; and an educational study tour to one or two regions of the United States other than the region where the host institution is located, running approximately one-week (including Washington, D.C.), designed to directly complement and reinforce the concepts explored in the academic residency program. These components will be organized through a carefully integrated series of hands-on leadership training workshops, academic sessions, study tour site visits, community service projects, optional home stays and other opportunities for interaction with American peers as well as other cultural activities.

TRAVEL

All participants will arrive and depart through Washington, D.C.

Participants will be met at U.S. Customs and Immigration in Washington by their respective host institutions. Travel to visit family or friends elsewhere in the United States will not be permitted before, during or after the program, including on weekends during the academic residency period. Students must return home immediately at the conclusion of the program.